



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM FOR:	All NOAA Personnel
FROM:	Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations
SUBJECT:	Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccination Certification or Negative Test Results for Contractors, Affiliates, and Visitors to NOAA Facilities
DATE:	August 25, 2021

As noted in last week's COVID-19 Vaccination Certification Process email, the Department of Commerce and NOAA have been working on updated safety protocols for accessing NOAA worksites, consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). **Described below are important updated safety protocols for contractors, grant recipients, affiliates, and visitors - this guidance does NOT apply to Federal employees.**

**Beginning on Monday, August 30, 2021**, all non-Federal employees, including contractors, grant recipients, affiliates, and visitors, will be required to complete the [non-Federal Employee and Visitor Certification Form](#) and carry a copy with them when reporting to a NOAA worksite. Individuals who do not certify that they are fully vaccinated, or who decline to provide vaccination status, must obtain a negative COVID-19 test to access NOAA worksites. Tests may be either a PCR or antigen test and must produce a written report. A negative result must be obtained no more than three calendar days prior to accessing a NOAA worksite. Additional information may be found at the [Safer Federal Workforce website](#). NOAA will be providing updated FAQs later this week.

All non-Federal employees who do not certify to being fully vaccinated or provide a negative test result will be denied access to NOAA worksites, **with a temporary exception for individuals who are coming onsite to perform or support mission essential functions**. Individuals coming on site to perform or support mission essential functions who do not certify they are fully vaccinated will not be required to provide a negative test result to access NOAA worksites until Monday, September 13, 2021. However, **beginning on Monday, September 13th, 2021**, all non-Federal employees who do not fully comply with the above requirements will be denied access to NOAA worksites, regardless of if they are performing or supporting mission essential functions. If individuals are unsure if they are performing or supporting a mission essential function, they should contact their Contracting Officer Representative (COR) or their federal manager. Additional information for contractors and affiliates will be provided to the contracting community shortly. Contractors and affiliates are encouraged to reach out to their CORs or their company program manager with any additional questions.

Please note that this guidance does not apply to Federal employees at this time. Federal employees may continue to access NOAA worksites as needed. As a reminder, all NOAA Federal employees, regardless of whether they are currently reporting for onsite work, are asked to submit information on their COVID-19 Vaccination Status using the [NOAA Federal Employee Vaccination Certification Form](#).

NOAA will continue to provide updates as guidance evolves, and we encourage you to visit [NOAA's COVID-19 Health and Wellness Information for Employees site](#) and [NOAA's OHCS Current Event: COVID-19 intranet site](#) for the most up-to-date information. We appreciate your efforts and thank you for following these steps to keep our workplaces and communities safe.

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